(c) details of efforts made to make the programme more effective in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) The Crude Birth Rate has dropped from 36.9 per thousand population in 1971 to 28.3 in 1995 as per the estimates of the Sample Registration System (SRS).

(b) The States of Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh continue to have birth rates in excess of 32 per thousand population as per the estimates of the SRS for 1995. The Birth Rate in the State of Orissa (27.7) is below the national level of 28.3, but the Infant Mortality Rate (103 per thousand live births) is much higher than the National level of 74.

(c) Providing additional inputs to States/Districts with adverse socio-demographic indicators is an accepted policy of the Family Welfare Programme.

Defaulters of Customs Duty

1921. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several private companies and many Government undertakings are among the defaulters in customs duty transaction; and

(b) if so, the details of these companies and Government undertakings and what legal action is being taken by Government to prevent such practice?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the names of companies can be furnished if the time period for which the information is sought is available. However, the Government has taken legal steps to prevent the tendency on the part of importers to delay the payment of customs duty by enacting appropriate legislation. Section 28AA of the Customs Act, 1962 which has been enacted in Finance Act, 1995 provides for impostion of interest @ 20% on the amount, the payment of which is delayed by the importer. In addition, Section 142(I) (C) (ii) has been introduced by Finance Act, 1995, unabling the officers of the Department to distrain any movable or immovable property belonging to the said importer and cause the said property to be sold and appropriate the sale proceeds towards the sums due to the Government.

Formulation of Media Policy

1922. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have formulated any media policy;

(b) if so, the main salient features thereof and whether the same is to be placed on the Table of House during the current Session; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROACASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) At present, the media policy has not been codified. However, different media units of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting function under various codes/regulations/guidelines as specified from time to time.

Paucity of funds for opening CGHS Dispensaries in Delhi

1923. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CGHS is facing paucity of funds for the last ten years for opening of CGHS Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic dispensaries in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its impact on the development of Ayurvedic

and Homoeopathic system of medicine in future; and

(c) the remedial measures taken/ proposed to be taken during the year 1996-97 in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (c) Due to paucity of resources no new CGHS Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic dispensaries could be opened during the last 10 years in Delhi. Proposals for providing more facilities for beneficiaries under the Ayurvedic/Homoeopathic system of medicine have been included in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Code for take-over/Merger of Companies Evolved by SEBI

1924. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new code for take-over and merger of companies and firms has been lately evolved by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI); and

(b) if so, what were the main flaws and loopholes in the earlier code governing such transactions and what are the major modifications introducted in the system through the new code?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) SEBI has appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice P. N. Bhagwati, former Chief Justice of India to review the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Substantial Acquistion of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 1994. The objective of the Committee is to suggest amendments in the existing regulations with a view to strengthening the regulations and making them more fair, transparent and unambiguous and also to protect the interest of investors and of all parties concerned in the acquistion process.

Losses of Indian Airlines

1925. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines are running in losses even if operating destinations of North-East and non-lucrative tourist destinations are not taken into account; and

(b) the practical steps proposed to make Indian Airlines a profitable organisation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steps have been taken by Indian Airlines to improve its product, image and on time performance to attract more passengers and increase revenue.

New Airports to taken up in Karnataka

1926. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) which are the new airports likely to be taken up in Karnataka both by Private Sector, State Government or Airport Authority of India;

(b) whether the existing airport, at Mysore, Bellary, Hubli and Belgaum are functional; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal to introduce smaller aircraft between these Centres, if not, whether Government would consider such a proposal?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Airports Authority of India has a proposal for construction of an airport at Hassan for 50 seater aircraft operations. Government of Karnataka has signed a MOU with a consortium headed by TATA Industries for the construction of an airport of international standards at Devanahalli near Bangalore.

(b) Hubli and Belgaum airports are functional and the airport at Mysore is